

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed, and carefully considered the final Office Action dated June 27, 2005. Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 17-19, 23, and 24 are rejected. Claims 2-4, 8, 10, 14-16 and 20-22 are objected to.

Applicant appreciates Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 2-4, 8, 10, 14-16 and 20-22.

In paragraph 6 on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 17-19, 23, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Reasoner (U.S. Patent No. 6,634,553).

Applicant respectfully traverses the § 102(e) rejection.

Applicant's invention focuses on an "imaging tape cartridge picker system" that is able to locate physical features in the thresholded image to identify the position of a cartridge. More specifically, claim 1, for example, recites that the processor "uses bounding boxes to identify the location of a desired physical feature in the thresholded image."

In contrast, Reasoner does not locate a location of a physical feature of a cartridge. Rather, Reasoner merely provides a system that improves upon the reading of bar codes or other labels on a cartridge. However, Reasoner does not describe exactly how the cartridge is located.

More specifically, Reasoner states that a "picker assembly 10 is moved so that cavity 11 is positioned next to the appropriate data cartridge" However, Reasoner does not state how the picker assembly locates cavity 11.

Reasoner further states that a data cartridges preferably includes a label, such as a bar code label, that can be detected and/or read by picker assembly 10 to find a desired cartridge. LED arrays 12, 13 provide illumination to the data cartridge label area. Light from the LED arrays is reflected off the bar code label and detected by the CCD. From the individual light sources will be directed onto centerline 23 of label area 22 when picker assembly 10 is positioned in front of data cartridge 20.

Again, however, Reasoner fails to suggest how the picker assembly 10 "knows" when it is positioned in front of data cartridge 20. Rather, Reasoner merely reads the label when it is positioned in front of the cartridge.

Reasoner improves upon the reading of labels by describing a method for illuminating a label wherein, relative to the position in which they are mounted on picker assembly 10, each of these LEDs throws light in a broad vertical pattern of approximately 120 degrees, as measured at the half power point, while constrained to a narrower horizontal pattern of approximately 45 degrees. The net effect of the light from LEDs 201-212 is illumination of label area 22.

Reasoner states that the CCD 25 detects a long thin vertical line of light oriented parallel to centerline 23. Each element of the CCD array generates a voltage that is proportional to the amount of light that is detected. These voltages are output to a processor or other device that processes the CCD voltage levels to detect the white spaces and dark bars of a bar code label.

However, this merely provides the illumination of the label, but does not describe the processing of data collected by the picker assembly to determine a location of a physical feature of the cartridge so that the location of the exact location of the cartridge can be ascertained.

According to Reasoner, once the bar code is detected, picker assembly 10 may engage data cartridge 20 to move it to another location, such as to a read/write drive. If the bar code is detected, but cannot be decoded, then picker assembly 10 can move left or right relative to data cartridge 20 to attempt to read the left edge 22a or right edge 22b of label area 22.

Clearly, Reasoner suggests that trial and error may be used to attempt to read the bar code. Accordingly, Reasoner does not describe the processing of data collected by the picker assembly to determine a location of a physical feature of the cartridge so that the location of the exact location of the cartridge can be ascertained. Moreover, merely detecting the bar code does not enable the picker assembly 10 to align with the cartridge. In fact, Reasoner merely falls into the category of registration techniques described in Applicant's background of the invention wherein dropped cartridges and jams may arise due to inaccurate alignment of the picker assembly with the cartridge. While Reasoner may improve upon the reading of labels. Reasoner fails to suggest any processing of reflected light signals to identify the location of a desired physical feature in the thresholded image using bounding boxes as recited in the claims. .”

Because Reasoner fails to disclose, teach or suggest at least the elements of the independent claims, Applicant submits that the § 102(e) rejection is improper and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

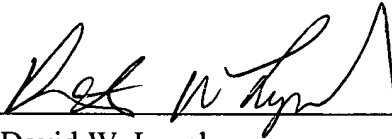
Dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18, and 20-24 are also patentable over the references, because they incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19. Further, dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18, and 20-24 recite additional novel elements and limitations. Applicants reserve the right to argue independently the patentability of these additional novel aspects. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18, and 20-24 are patentable over the cited patent.

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicant, David W. Lynch, at 423-757-0264.

Respectfully submitted,

Chambliss, Bahner and Stophel
1000 Tallan Building
Two Union Square
Chattanooga, TN 37402
423-757-0264

By: 
Name: David W. Lynch
Reg. No.: 36,204